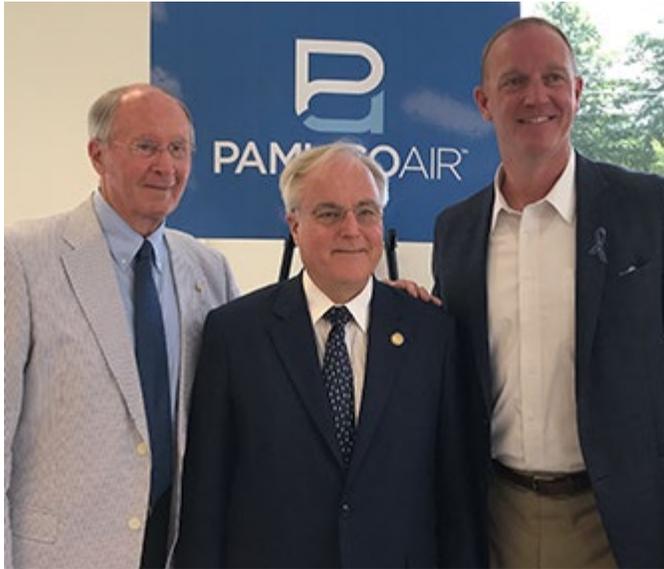


sync[®] NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES FROM N.C. COMMERCE



(L-R) Mayor Bruce Rose, City of Wilson; Secretary Copeland; and Pamlico Air's CEO Travis Stephenson at the announcement ceremony last Thursday.

Air Filtration Manufacturer to Create 305 New Jobs in Wilson County

Pamlico Air, an air filtration manufacturing company, will create 305 jobs as it expands its operations in Wilson County, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced last Thursday (June 20). The company, previously known as CleanAire, will be investing \$10 million in operating a facility in Wilson.

"More and more manufacturers are finding North Carolina's motivated workforce a good fit for their businesses," said **Governor Cooper**. "Pamlico Air's decision to expand their operations in North Carolina shows what we already know, that our state's communities are eager to grow right along with their growing companies."

Pamlico Air's Wilson facility will produce air filters targeted specifically to the commercial, industrial, and retail markets.

"We are excited that Wilson will be home to our North Carolina facility. We have a lot of ties to Eastern North Carolina and are thankful for the support we have received from the city of Wilson and the state to make this opportunity a reality," said **Travis Stephenson, CEO of Pamlico Air**.



(L-R) Scott Mulwee, Vice-Chair, Burke County Board of Commissioners; Assistant Secretary Kenny Flowers; Richard Ticktin, CEO, SynergyLabs; and Johnnie Carswell, Chair, Burke County Board of Commissioners at the announcement event in Morganton.

Major Pet Products Manufacturer SynergyLabs Selects Burke County for New Venture and Facility

SynergyLabs, a fast-growing manufacturer of specialty pet products, has selected Burke County as the location for a new company that will create 237 jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 18. The enterprise will invest \$11.2 million to ramp up a new manufacturing plant in Hildebran.

"North Carolina offers high-tech manufacturers like SynergyLabs the right ingredients for success, from our skilled workers to our transportation networks," said **Governor Cooper**. "We are excited to see this infusion of jobs in Burke County, and will continue to work to bring jobs and economic growth to our state's rural communities."

SynergyLabs, with headquarters in Fort Lauderdale, Florida is a "concept-to-shelf" manufacturer of more than 150 branded and private brand products for pets. The company sells and distributes products across pet-specialty, veterinary, grocery, farm and feed, mass-merchandisers, and big-box channels in over 50 countries worldwide. The company's pet merchandise lines include grooming aids, stain & odor products, training aids, flea & tick controls, and nutritional supplements.

"Pets are family too, and we are committed to providing pet parents with world-class products that deliver the same high levels of quality they'd provide other family members," said **Richard Ticktin, Founder and CEO of SynergyLabs**. "North Carolina's reputation

"North Carolina is one of the nation's leaders in manufacturing," said **Secretary of Commerce Anthony M. Copeland**. "With the expansion of Pamlico Air to Wilson County, our skilled workforce will continue to build our reputation as a manufacturing leader and a home to innovation."

A performance-based grant of \$250,000 from the One North Carolina Fund will help facilitate Pamlico Air's new operation in Wilson County.

In addition to the [North Carolina Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina](#), other key partners in the project include the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Wilson County](#), and the [Wilson Economic Development Council](#).

[Read more.](#)



(L-R) Rick Watkins, Richmond Co. Commissioner; Vaughan Buckley, CEO for VBC Manufacturing; Kenny Flowers, Commerce Assistant Secretary for Rural Economic Development; and Devin Perry, National Association of Home Builders

VBC Manufacturing Will Create 130 Jobs in Richmond County

VBC | Manufacturing - Hamlet, a producer of pre-fabricated building components for the construction industry, will open a manufacturing facility in Richmond County, creating 130 new jobs, **Governor Roy Cooper** announced June 17. The company, a division of the Volumetric Building Companies (VBC), will invest more than \$12 million in Hamlet within the next three years.

"Growing businesses know they can rely on North Carolina's excellent workforce to ensure they have the right workers for the job," **Governor Cooper** said. "Today's announcement helps North Carolina's reputation as a leader in modern manufacturing."

VBC manufactures pre-fabricated components that are used in the multi-family residential, student housing, and hospitality construction markets. Volumetric modular construction is a fast-growing segment of the construction trade that streamlines the process of building by integrating design, engineering, construction and management into an off-site, vertically integrated supply chain.

The company will operate a facility previously run by Ritz-Craft

for manufacturing excellence gives us complete confidence we'll be able expand our operations while maintaining the high standards our customers have come to expect. We are so pleased to call North Carolina home."

"North Carolina is the number one manufacturing state in the southeast for a reason," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland** "Our list of advantages starts with North Carolina's high-quality workforce, which provides the skills companies need for advanced manufacturing operations."

Although wages will vary depending on position, the average salary for all the new positions will reach \$40,568. The current average wage in Burke County is \$35,759.

The new company's project in Burke County, backed by SynergyLabs LLC, will be facilitated, in part, by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). Over the course of the 12-year term of this grant, the project will grow the state's economy by an estimated \$968 million and could provide to the company just over \$2 million, spread over those 12 years.

Because SynergyLabs chose a location in Burke County, classified by the state's economic tier system as Tier 2, the JDIG agreement also calls for moving as much as \$231,300 into the state's Industrial Development Fund – Utility Account. The Utility Account helps rural communities finance necessary infrastructure upgrades to attract future business.

Partnering with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), the [North Carolina Department of Agriculture](#), the [Western Piedmont Council of Governments](#), [Burke County](#), the [Town of Hildebran](#), and [Burke Development, Inc.](#)

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Liz Crabill in Beaufort June 12.

Corporation. The new plant will produce 'volumes,' a term used to describe modular units used for high density residential construction. VBC will enhance the plant's current capabilities with investments in the plant building, its workforce, and new technology.

"Getting the opportunity to grow with an existing group of dedicated workers, to create the factory of the future together, is an amazing opportunity," said **Vaughan Buckley, VBC's owner and President**. "Having these resources in place allows our company to simultaneously focus on its core values, while also looking towards the future of this factory and the industry as a whole."

"Companies have many choices when selecting a manufacturing location," said **North Carolina Commerce Secretary Anthony M. Copeland**. "North Carolina's list of advantages, from our favorable business climate to our workforce and transportation networks, continues to draw forward-looking manufacturers and we are committed to working to continue this growth across our state for years to come."

VBC's site location decision creates new opportunities for production personnel, logistics handlers, and office staff. Although wages will vary by position, the average salary for all the new positions will reach \$39,270. The current average wage in Richmond County is \$34,008.

The VBC project in Richmond County involves a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG). The grant was formally awarded to JB Hamlet, LLC, a corporation wholly owned by Vaughan Buckley and other investors which will operate using the company name VBC | Manufacturing – Hamlet. The company could receive just over \$2.1 million spread over 12 years.

VBC's JDIG agreement calls for the company to invest \$12,750,000 in the project and also ensures that 70 existing jobs from the prior operation are retained.

Partnering with [N.C. Commerce](#) and the [EDPNC](#) on this project were the [North Carolina General Assembly](#), the [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Richmond Community College](#), [Richmond County](#), and [Richmond County Economic Development](#).

[Read more.](#)



Chief Deputy Secretary Crabill Delivers Keynote Address at NCEDA

North Carolina's economic developers gathered in Beaufort June 12 to network with peers and sharpen their skills at the 2019 Annual Conference for the North Carolina Economic Developers Association.

The theme of this year's conference was 'The Economic Development Puzzle: Finding the Missing Pieces.'

Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Liz Crabill delivered a keynote address to the group, sharing information she's gathered recently regarding workforce development across the United States.

[Read more.](#)

Rural Communities Receive Nearly \$10.8 Million in Grants, Attracting 799 New Jobs

Earlier this week, **Governor Cooper** announced 21 rural grants totaling \$10,790,000 to help communities make necessary infrastructure preparations to attract business to their regions.

The grants were authorized by the North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) and will help create a total of 1,314 jobs, 515 of which were previously announced, since their projects included discretionary grants like the One North Carolina Fund.

The public investment in these projects will attract more than \$123.7 million in private investment.

"By making strategic investments in rural infrastructure, North Carolina is better positioned for economic growth," **Governor Cooper** said. "Rural Infrastructure Authority grants are the seed to grow good jobs and improve all areas of our state's economy."

The Authority authorized Building Reuse grants in Burke, Camden, Cleveland, Harnett, Montgomery, Pasquotank, Rockingham, Rutherford, and Scotland counties as well as the cities or towns of Archdale, Jacksonville, Sanford, and Scotland Neck. Grants were also awarded from the Utility Account and the Community Development Block Grant - Economic Development program.

Complete details on each of the [RIA awarded projects is available online.](#)

On Our Radar

Three New Projects Approved for North Carolina Film Grants

Three new television and film projects have been approved to receive North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant funds. Combined, the projects are expected to generate a direct in-state spend in excess of \$50.6 million. The productions will create more than 5,800 job opportunities in the state, including 1,120 crew positions for the state's talented film workforce.

The projects include:

- The television series, "Reprisal;" Once completed, the production will be eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$10.7 million. The series will film in the greater Wilmington area, with other locations expected in various parts of Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender and Sampson counties.
- "Virginia Cold Case Project;" A made-for-television movie from the team behind the hit PBS series "A Chef's Life" will conduct production-related activities in Durham, Mecklenburg, Moore and Robeson counties. The production was awarded a \$370,000 grant.
- "The 24th;" A \$1.6 million grant has been awarded for this feature film project scheduled to shoot in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Rowan counties.

The three projects join five others that have had funds reserved from the North Carolina Film and Entertainment Grant during the current fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019. In all, North Carolina Department of Commerce has reserved \$34,116,244 from the grant during this period. The state anticipates a direct in-state spend of at least \$124.5 million for all productions from 2019 with additional projects expected to increase the overall spend total by year end.

[Read more.](#)

- [LEAD Feed Blog: Top 10 Observations of Local Constellations \(Star Jobs Article\)](#)
- [Golden Leaf announces search for next president \(Triad Business Journal - June 19\)](#)

N.C. in the News

- [Wake commissioner: \\$1.9B soccer development project would produce 6,000 jobs WRAL TechWire - June 24\)](#)
- [STATE: Pet products maker selects Burke for new facility Stanly News & Press - June 18\)](#)
- [Durham pharma firm Tergus adding 200 jobs, picks new HQ WRAL TechWire - June 13\)](#)

About Us

SYNC is North Carolina Commerce's electronic newsletter for local government officials, private-sector allies, state policy makers, and other economic development leaders. We offer unfiltered details about new economic development projects and events, useful news about your peers, and opportunities to synchronize with statewide programs and tools in order to advance economic development in your community. [Send your story ideas to the editor.](#)

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